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EXAMINER

PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2154

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/074,770

Applicant(s)

VAN DE MEULENHOF, DENNIS

Examiner

Ashok B. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/3/2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Application Number 09/830, 475 was filed on 09/24/2001. Claims 1-10 are subject to examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claim 3 recites the limitation "invalid" relevant to "mapping" in line 1 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless-

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kato et al. (US 6, 738, 835 B1).

Referring to claim 1,

The reference teaches a method for executing a re-configuration in a self-configuring digital network after occurrence of a reconfiguration trigger (col. 4, lines 22-26," (11)

When any new device is connected to the 1394 bus 31, there occurs a bus reset, and

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then a bus master (e.g., controller 11) in the 1394 bus executes a process of node ID assignment to each device and also a process of device driver assignment.”), through upon detecting such trigger, communicating between various physical nodes their respective logical node identifiers (col. 4, lines 14-21, “Suppose now that, in the state mentioned above, the connection in the bus system is so changed as shown in FIG. 5 for example. In this case, a controller 81 and a target device 82 are connected to a controller 12 via a 1394 bus 31, and a target device 83 is connected to a target device 14. The controller 81, the target device 82 and the target device 83 have, respectively, NUID81, NUID82 and NUID83 each serving as a node unique ID thereof.”) and furthermore communicating functionality informations regarding the respective node stations (col. 3, lines 66 through col. 4, line 4, “It is supposed that, in the memory 57 of the television receiver 41 functioning as the controller 11, there is already stored a table which holds the relationship of mutual correspondence between the target devices in the 1394 bus system and the controllers having software elements such as device drivers (virtual devices) to control the target devices.),

said method being characterized by, associated to such detecting, recognizing in a particular node such other nodes that before such trigger had been conducting a communication relation with said particular node (col. 4, lines 40-43,” Each node contains a configuration ROM which stores therein a flag indicative of whether the relevant node has a function as a controller capable of controlling the other node or a function as a target device controlled by the other node.”), marking all logical node mappings on the various physical nodes as invalid, through said communicating of

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logical node identifiers establishing said reconfiguration, whilst executing the communicating of said functionality informations on a basis of necessity. (col. 4, lines 49-65, "Upon reception of the response packet via the 1394 interface 58, the control unit 55 of the television receiver 41 extracts the flag and makes a decision at step S3 as to whether the flag indicates the target device or not. If the flag indicates the target device of the node, the operation proceeds to step S4, where the control unit 55 makes a decision as to whether the controller having a device driver to control the target device is already stored or not in the NUID information table stored in the memory 57. Even in the bus reset state, each controller still holds the preceding device driver held prior to occurrence of the bus reset. Since it is therefore not necessary to alter the table portion corresponding to the target device, the operation proceeds to step S6, where the control unit 55 makes another decision as to whether all the nodes have been selected or not, and if the result of this decision signifies that there is any node not selected yet, the operation returns to step S1.")

Referring to claim 2,

The reference teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein such reconfiguration undertakes to re-establish an existing mapping pattern of logical identifiers from a hitherto communication-related sub-sets among said nodes, whilst seeking replacement of interrupted communication-relations on a basis of necessity. (col. 4, lines 49-65, "Upon reception of the response packet via the 1394 interface 58, the control unit 55 of the television receiver 41 extracts the flag and makes a decision at step S3 as to whether the flag indicates the target device or not. If the flag indicates the target device

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of the node, the operation proceeds to step S4, where the control unit 55 makes a decision as to whether the controller having a device driver to control the target device is already stored or not in the NUID information table stored in the memory 57. Even in the bus reset state, each controller still holds the preceding device driver held prior to occurrence of the bus reset. Since it is therefore not necessary to alter the table portion corresponding to the target device, the operation proceeds to step S6, where the control unit 55 makes another decision as to whether all the nodes have been selected or not, and if the result of this decision signifies that there is any node not selected yet, the operation returns to step S1.”)

Referring to claim 3,

The reference teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein upon detection of an invalid and unrestorable mapping, a network-wide query is undertaken for a replacement target node for effecting such mapping. (col. 4, lines 59-65, “Since it is therefore not necessary to alter the table portion corresponding to the target device, the operation proceeds to step S6, where the control unit 55 makes another decision as to whether all the nodes have been selected or not, and if the result of this decision signifies that there is any node not selected yet, the operation returns to step S1.”)

Referring to claim 4,

The reference teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, whilst in association with said reconfiguration storing an overall network topology in a subset made up of one or more physical nodes of the network. (Figs. 1-5).

Referring to claim 5,

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The reference teaches a method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said network is based on IEEE 1394 or USB. (Fig. 1, element 31, col. 3, lines 20-27)

Referring to claim 6,

Claim 6 is a claim to a system being arranged for implementing a method as claimed in claim 1. Therefore claim 6 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 1.

Referring to claim 7,

Claim 6 is a claim to an apparatus being arranged for operating as a node station in a system as claimed in claim 6.. Therefore claim 7 is rejected for the reasons set forth for claim 6.

Conclusion

Examiner's note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Abp

 JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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